

*Alfred A. Taylor*  
**SYLLABUS**

*13 St James's Terrace*

*Regent Park*  
**LECTURES**

ON

**MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE**

IN

**THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

BY

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AND

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## ADVERTISEMENT.

The Lectures on the Medical part of the Course will commence on Friday, the 7th of January, and will be continued every Tuesday and Friday, at Seven o'Clock in the Evening, during the Medical Session: those on the Legal part will commence on Monday, the 10th of January, and a Lecture will be delivered every Monday Evening, at half-past Eight o'Clock, for five Weeks previous to the Spring Circuit; the remaining Lectures of the Course will be delivered after Easter.

The Introductory Lecture will be delivered at Three o'Clock in the Afternoon, on Friday, the 7th of January.

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ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES	
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# SYLLABUS, &c.

OF

## PROFESSOR THOMSON.

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THE subject introduced:—its importance:—the qualifications requisite to understand its various departments:—the necessity of correct medical evidence to the cause of Justice; consequently to the peace and happiness of Society:—method of studying the subject.

### A. GENERAL DIVISION OF THE COURSE.

As the enquiries connected with Medical Jurisprudence involve circumstances arising out of the situation of Man as a social being, both as regards his domestic relationships, his place in society, and the protection necessary to be afforded to his personal safety and life, the subject naturally divides itself into three heads, according as the Legal Investigations, which demand medical testimony, are connected with

- A. SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS:
- B. THE CONSTITUTION OF SOCIETY:
- C. PERSONAL SAFETY.

§ A. QUESTIONS DEMANDING MEDICAL TESTIMONY, IN  
LEGAL ENQUIRIES CONNECTED WITH SOCIAL RELATION-  
SHIPS.

These have reference chiefly to

- a. Age ;
- b. Sex ;
- c. Rape ;
- d. Pregnancy ;
- e. Birth of Children ;
- f. Infanticide.

a. AGE :—its influence in the development of reason, and consequently in fixing the responsibility of individuals in committing crimes :—puberty, how determined :—period at which pregnancy is possible, and beyond which it cannot occur :—how influenced by climate. Personal identity as affected by age ;—obliteration of *nævi materni* ;—alterations in the voice ;—increase of stature after the usual period of growth ;—diminution of stature in the *decline* of life ;—effects of age in overcoming acquired habits of long standing.

b. SEX :—question respecting the existence of hermaphrodites in the strict meaning of the term :—natural distinction of the sexes :—malformations rendering the sex doubtful :—androgyni ;—androgynæ. *Impotency* where no obvious malformation exists :—causes of in the male—natural and absolute,—accidental or temporary and curable :—sterility : natural or constitutional,—temporary and curable.

c. RAPE :—physical signs of virginity :—causes connected with diseases which render these signs fallacious :—signs of defloration and rape ;—diseased appearances which resemble these :—examination of the body in cases of death following the act of violent defloration. Examination of the question—can a rape be committed? Defloration committed during sleep,—during the intoxication of the female,—during fainting, or any other state which prevents the knowledge of the female. Is

pregnancy after alleged rape to be regarded as a proof of acquiescence in the female ?

*d.* PREGNANCY:—signs of this state ;—*a.* those affecting the system generally ;—*b.* those affecting the uterus :—uncertainty of these signs as connected with *moles, hydatids, &c.*—proofs of impregnation on dissection—*a.* in its earliest stage ;—*corpora lutea,*—their value as a proof ;—*b.* in after stages :—progress of pregnancy, —quickenings, —period of uterine gestation and parturition :—utmost limit to which it has been protracted :—superfoetation :—concealed pregnancy. Can the state of pregnancy exist unknown to the female until delivery occur ? —signs of delivery having occurred—appearances of it presented on dissection :—fallacies depending on the period within which the examination is made :—pretended delivery :—unconscious delivery connected with insanity :—Cæsarian operation.

*e.* BIRTH OF CHILDREN :—signs of maturity—of immaturity of a child—size—weight—state of skin—*membrana pupillaris*—fontanelles, &c :—period of birth at which a child may probably survive :—causes of the death of children, born at the full period, immediately after birth ;—natural, artificial, or violent :—degree of deformity which constitutes a monster :—extra-uterine foetuses.

*f.* INFANTICIDE :—criminal abortion ;—causes of,—medicinal—mechanical ;—proofs of derived from the examination of the child ;—of the mother, whether living or dead :—murder of the child during parturition ;—by omission—by commission :—proofs of the murder of a child after it is born—derived from the state of the circulation ;—the condition of the lungs ;—descent of the diaphragm ;—state of the urinary bladder, &c. Infanticide by omission,—unnecessary exposure of the body to cold ;—improper treatment of umbilical cord :—Infanticide by commission ;—mechanical injuries in the process of delivery :—strangulation immediately after birth :—submersion in water :

—blows. Method of examining the body of the child in cases of Infanticide :—fallacies that may lead to erroneous conclusions.

§ B. QUESTIONS DEMANDING MEDICAL TESTIMONY, IN LEGAL ENQUIRIES CONNECTED WITH THE CONSTITUTION OF SOCIETY.

These refer chiefly to

- a.* Assurance of Life ;
- b.* Right of Succession ;
- c.* Disqualifications from Public Services ;
- d.* Mental Alienation ;
- e.* Public Health.

*a.* ASSURANCE OF LIFE :—definition of health, and of disease :—diseases tending to shorten life, and which, consequently, affect the granting policies of assurance.

*b.* RIGHT OF SUCCESSION, OR LEGITIMACY :—premature birth :—causes which authorize the legitimacy of the first-born child after marriage when the delivery is premature :—protracted delivery ;—under what circumstances the child so born is legitimate :—evidences of paternity from family likeness, colour, &c.—how proved when a widow marries within a month after the death of her former husband :—when the delivery occurs in the absence of her husband beyond the usual period of uterine gestation.

*c.* DISQUALIFICATIONS FROM—1. MILITARY SERVICE—2. JURIES :—1. rupture—sore legs—varicose veins—deformity—consumption—vertigo—epilepsy—insanity—imbecility—dumbness—blindness. Soldiers often feign diseases ;—mode of detecting these :—2. Men are unfit to serve on Juries who are labouring under severe asthma—epilepsy—consumption—aneurism—stone in the bladder—infirmary from old age, &c :—granting certificates.

*d.* MENTAL ALIENATION :—connection between mind and body ;—sound mind :—diseases resembling insanity—hypo-

chondriasis—epilepsy—intoxication—hysteria—nostalgia—imbecility from old age. Symptoms of insanity—corporeal—mental:—species of the disease:—1. *Mania*:—precursory symptoms:—actual symptoms—physiognomy—state of sensibility—perverted sensations—loss of memory—timidity:—duration of a paroxysm:—variety—*Monomania*—its character and consequences. 2. *Melancholy*:—symptoms—corporeal—mental:—age most liable to it. 3. *Dementia*—its characteristics. *Idiotism*—congenital—distinction between it and fatuity the consequence of other diseases. State of the mind necessary to render a will valid:—on what grounds certificates of confinement in insane cases should be granted:—cautions requisite to be observed. Lucid intervals:—how to discover the particular hallucinations of insane persons.

e. PUBLIC HEALTH:—nuisances—manufactories—drains—shambles—hospitals:—exposure of persons with Small pox and other infectious diseases:—quarantine—bills of health—cordons.

### § C. QUESTIONS DEMANDING MEDICAL TESTIMONY, IN LEGAL ENQUIRIES, CONNECTED WITH PERSONAL SAFETY AND LIFE.

These refer chiefly to

- a. Injuries and Mutilations ;
- b. Sudden Death ;
- c. Persons found dead ;
- d. Poisoning.

~~X~~ a. INJURIES AND MUTILATIONS.—1. *Wounds*:—slight—dangerous—mortal:—danger aggravated by the nature of the parts injured;—the age, constitution, temper, health, and vocation of the wounded person;—the insalubrity of the residence of the person;—the weather;—the delay in obtaining surgical aid—the want of skill of the Surgeon employed. Mode

of conducting a dissection in the event of death from a wound.  
 2. *Mutilations*:—cutting out the tongue,—slitting the nose,—destroying the eyesight:—castration:—disfigurement and mutilation from ignorance of surgery.

*b.* **SUDDEN DEATH.**—Signs of death:—distinction from those of trance or catalepsy,—suspended animation,—feigned death. Mode of conducting the dissection of the body to ascertain the causes of sudden death. These may be internal, or external and accidental, independent of murder.

*c.* **PERSONS FOUND DEAD:**—the causes of death are to be ascertained from the condition and state of the body;—place where the body is found:—1. *Hanging*—whether an act of suicide or of homicide:—whether in the case of a body found hanging, the suspension has been the cause of death?—evidences that death has been caused by hanging although the body be not found suspended. 2. **STRANGULATION:** symptoms of:—can it happen as an act of suicide? 3. **DROWNING:**—signs of—time of submersion:—has the submersion been the cause of death?—has the drowning been an act of suicide or of homicide?—evidences that a body found submersed had been previously murdered:—dissection of bodies found drowned. 4. *Smothering*:—accidental:—an act of homicide:—dissections. 5. *Wounds*:—whether accidental—or the result of suicide or homicide. 6. *Burns*:—distinction between burns and scalds:—scorching from lightning:—spontaneous combustion. 7. *Starvation*:—signs of:—whether voluntary or forced?

Evidences necessary to ascertain the cause of death of bodies found in a state of putrefaction.

*d.* **POISONING:**—definition of a poison:—general mode in which poisons operate:—causes modifying their operation. Evidences of poisoning on the living body:—fallacies in judging of these arising from disease:—evidences from the examination of the dead body:—method of conducting the dissection:—fallacies arising from the effects of diseases on the vis-



cera,—the perforation of the stomach by its natural juices,—the introduction of acrid poisons into the body after death,—the changes undergone by the delay of the examination, &c.—detection of pretended and imputed poisoning. Chemical investigation of the poison to ascertain its nature :—in a pure state—in a state of combination with articles of food and drink,—with the contents of the stomach, either vomited or found in the viscus after death.

Poisons may be classed under the five following heads—

- a. Acrid Poisons ;
- b. Narcotic Poisons ;
- c. Narcotico-acrid Poisons ;
- d. Sedative Poisons ;
- e. Septic Poisons.

a. ACRID POISONS :—

1. *Inorganic Substances.*

General symptoms of poisoning by these,—when taken internally—when externally applied :—effects on the tissues :—distinction between these and the morbid appearances from diseases :—particular acrid poisons :—

1. *Concentrated Acids.*—a. Sulphuric :—symptoms of poisoning by :—post mortem appearances :—tests to discover the acid :—b. Nitric :—symptoms :—post mortem appearances :—tests :—c. *Muriatic or Hydrochloric* :—symptoms :—dissection :—tests. Treatment of cases of poisoning by these acids when the patient is not dead. d. Oxalic :—symptoms :—post mortem appearances :—tests :—treatment :—e. Acetic and Pyrolignous Acids :—symptoms :—tests :—treatment.

2. *Pure Alkalies.*—a. Soda—Potassa :—symptoms,—morbid appearances on dissection,—tests ;—treatment of the person poisoned when death does not ensue. b. Ammonia :—symptoms :—post mortem appearances :—tests :—treatment.

3. *Salts.*—Carbonates :—Nitrate of Potassa—Muriate or Hydrochlorate of Ammonia :—Lime :—Muriate of Lime :—Baryta :—Carbonate of Baryta ;—Muriate of Baryta ;—Nitrate

of Baryta:—Chromate of Potassa:—symptoms of poisoning by these salts;—dissection;—tests:—treatment.

4. *Arsenical Preparations.*—*a.* Arsenious acid—symptoms of poisoning by Arsenious acid—when taken into the stomach,—when introduced into the rectum,—into the vagina,—when externally applied:—evidences when the person dies soon after taking the poison—when after surviving a few days—weeks—months;—when he recovers and lives:—morbid appearances presented on dissection:—tests:—treatment. *b.* Protoxide of Arsenic:—*c.* Arsenite of Potassa—*d.* Liquor Arsenicalis—*e.* Arsenite of Copper—*f.* Sulphurets of Arsenic.

5. *Mercurial Poisons:*—action of mercurial preparations on the body—mercurial Erethysm:—influenced by idiosyncrasy:—evidences of poisoning by Cinnabar—red Oxide of Mercury—Corrosive Sublimate—Nitrate of Mercury—Subsulphate of Mercury—Cyanide of Mercury—derived from the symptoms:—morbid appearances:—tests:—treatment of when the person survives.

6. *Cuprous Poisons:*—general symptoms produced by the Salts of Copper when taken into the stomach:—Sulphate of Copper,—Verdigris:—morbid appearances which present themselves on dissection:—tests:—treatment of poisoning by salts of copper.

7. *Antimonial Poisons.*—Tartar Emetic:—Muriate or Butter of Antimony:—symptoms excited by these poisons:—appearance on post mortem examination:—tests:—treatment.

8. *Oxides and Muriates of Tin.*

9. *Nitrate of Silver:—Oxalate?*

10. *Subnitrate of Bismuth.*

11. *Oxide of Zinc:—Sulphate of Zinc.*

} Symptoms:—tests:  
—treatment.

12. *Lead:*—effects of various substances of food and drink on metallic Lead:—comparative influence of the salts of Lead as poisons:—Litharge:—Carbonate of Lead;—Acetates:—dissections of fatal cases from poisoning by salts of Lead:—tests:—treatment.

13. *Iodine* :—Tincture of Iodine—Hydriodate of Potassa : symptoms of poisoning by these substances :—morbid appearances on dissection :—tests :—treatment.

15. *Mechanical Irritants*.—*Irritating Gases* :—Sulphurous Acid—Chlorine.

## II. *Organic Substances.*

16. *Animal* :—Cantharides :—symptoms excited by over doses of these in the healthy body :—morbid appearances :—treatment.

17. *Vegetable* :—Elaterium,—Elatina :—Euphorbium :—Croton oil :—Colocynth :—Ranunculacæ :—Delphinium Staphysagria,—Delphinia :—Mezereon :—Savine, &c.

*b. NARCOTIC POISONS* :—symptoms of poisoning by these :—distinction between these symptoms and those of Apoplexy, —Epilepsy,—Phrenitis, Asphixia, and diseases of the spinal chord :—particular Narcotic Poisons :—

1. *Opium*—Morphia—acetate of ;—Narcotina :—symptoms of poisoning by Opium and its products :—morbid appearances :—tests :—treatment.

2. *Hyosciamus*—extract of :—Hyosciamia.

3. *Lactuca virosa*—Lactucarium.

4. *Solanum nigrum*—*S. Dulcamara*—Solania.

5. *Cocculus indicus*—Picrotoxia.

*c. NARCOTICO-ACRID POISONS* :—symptoms distinguishing these poisons from the Acrid and Narcotic :—morbid appearances :—tests :—treatment.

1. *Atropa Belladonna*—Atropia.

2. *Datura Stramonium*—Daturia.

3. *Nicotiana Tabacum*—Nicotina.

4. *Conium Maculatum*—Conia.

5. *Cicuta virosa*.
6. *Ænanthe crocata*.
7. *Æthusa cynapium*.
8. *Scilla Maritima*—Scillitina.
9. *Colchicum Autumnale*—Veratria.
10. *Aconitum paniculatum*—Aconita.
11. *Secale Cornutum*.
12. *Strychnos Nux Vomica* — *S. St. Ignatii* — *S. Ticutè*—  
Strychnia.
13. *Camphor*.

d. **SEDATIVE POISONS**:—symptoms distinguishing these from Narcotics:—morbid appearances:—tests:—treatment.

1. *Hydrocyanic Acid*—Oil of Bitter Almonds—Laurel Water—Noyau.

2. *Tobacco Smoke*.

3. *Fish Poison*—Yellow-billed Sprat—Muscles—Oysters—  
&c.

4. *Bites of Venomous Serpents*—Viper—Rattle Snake.

5. *Bites of Hydrophobic Animals*.

6. *Sedative Gases*—Carbonic Acid—Sulphuretted Hydrogen, Carburetted Hydrogen, Nitrogen.

e. *Septic Poisons* — marsh miasma — putrefying animal and vegetable matter.

The course will conclude with a few remarks on the medical examination of persons suspected of having administered poisons.

SYLLABUS  
OF  
PROFESSOR AMOS.

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1. *Occasions of summoning medical men to give testimony upon oath.*—Committees of the Houses of Lords and Commons—trials at the assizes—suits in the ecclesiastical courts—proceedings before the coroner—commissions of lunacy—modes of compelling attendance of medical witnesses—expenses of attendance.

2. *Examination of medical witnesses.*—Examination in chief, cross-examination, re-examination—leading questions—references to memoranda—registers of hospitals—presumptive evidence—hearsay evidence—professional confidence—privilege from not answering, in case of professional attendance at duels, &c.—professional opinion—experience, medical writers—complaints made by patients—confessions—dying declarations—demeanour of medical witnesses.

3. *Legal institutions and enquiries with respect to age and survivorship.*

Legal age of competency for marriage, for making a will, &c.—view of infant by the court—personal identity and handwriting as affected by age—presumption of survivorship of persons of different ages meeting with death from the same cause—*lex de commorientibus*—cases of survivorship of persons drowned in the same vessel, hanged in the same cart, &c.—General Stanwix's case, &c.—presumption of continuance of life, with reference to the proof of pedigree, to the usury laws, to simony, to conveyances of land—proof of death without issue—offences with regard to the age of the person, by and on whom perpetrated.

4. *With regard to sex.*

Hermaphrodites, how regarded by the law of England—trial of pregnancy—jury of matrons—legitimacy, concealed delivery, pretended delivery, protracted delivery—period of gestation—presumption in favor of possibility of issue—proof of non-access—family likeness and color—legitimacy of child born after marriage, before the natural period—parentage of child born shortly after a second marriage—writ de ventre inspiciendo—declarations and recognition of parents—cases of the Banbury, Berkeley, and Gardiner peerages, &c.—divorces for impotency and sterility; for cruelty—rape, assaults with intent to commit rape—administering of drugs to procure abortion—administering drugs when the woman is quick with child—wagers respecting the sex of individuals.

5. *With reference to children.*

Cases relating to succession, where two or more children have been born at a birth—rights of issue in *ventre sa mere*—law relating to monsters—tenancy by courtesy—crying of child, whether necessary to create this species of estate—*possessio fratris*—proof of the time and place of birth—forgery of parish registers—accoucheurs' books—infanticide—Cæsarian operation concealment of birth—immoderate correction.

6. *Policies of life assurance.*

Concealments of diseases vitiating policies—construction of policies with reference to the health of the individual insured—diseases tending to shorten life—exception in policies of “suicide, duelling, or the hand of justice.”

7. *Disqualifications, exemptions, and sudden illness.*

Diseases disqualifying from military service and juries, and from attending as a witness—*essoign* “*de malo lecti*”—incapacity of prisoner to take his trial, from illness—standing mute—feigned diseases—sudden illness of juror, witness, or prisoner—postponement of trial, in civil and criminal cases, on account of illness of witnesses—imprisonment and execution when postponed, on account of illness.

8. *Insanity.*

Degree of mental alienation which renders a person irresponsible for civil engagements; for criminal acts—avoidance of marriage of lunatics—sound mind—*compos mentis*—knowledge of right and wrong—lucid intervals—partial insanity—incurable lunacy—restoration to reason—competency to make a will—words sounding to folly—custody of lunatic paupers, criminals, relations—lunatic asylums—medical certificates of lunacy—*habeas corpus*—action for false imprisonment.

9. *Personal defects other than insanity.*

Law relating to idiots—weakness of mind—incompetency to manage affairs—influence in obtaining a will, &c.—competency of deaf and dumb persons—execution of legal instruments by blind persons.

10. *Laws relating to the public health.*

Law of nuisances arising from manufactories, hospitals, &c. unwholesome trades, &c.—exposure of persons having contagious complaints—law of burials—law of quarantine—mixture of pernicious ingredients in provisions—commissioners of sewers.

11. *Personal injuries.*

*a.* Murder, manslaughter, homicide in general—Mayhem battery, wounding, assault—incised wounds—view of Mayhem—assaults with attempt to commit felonies—suicide—aggravation of injuries by injudicious treatment—by intoxication, &c.—military punishments—punishments by the common law—*peine forte et dure*—torture—*Le Secret*—prison discipline—distinction between felonies and misdemeanors—law of accessories.

*b.* Death by poisoning, drowning, starvation, duress, &c.—malicious poisoning, &c. of cattle—cases of Countess of Somerset, Spencer, Cowper, Donellan, Eliza Fenning, &c.—enquiries usually made of medical witnesses on trials relating to violent deaths.

THE END.

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